

When I was a child, I watched the news with my parents, and saw the reporting of news events and political scandals such as the Watergate Investigation that ultimately led to the resignation of Richard Nixon. I remember when investigative reporting uncovered many more items that were truly news, and affected the way the public responded at the polls and in their private lives.

Today, the so-called "news" on the networks is unfairly biased to the right and to huge industries that increasingly control what we are allowed to know. The public no longer hears opposing viewpoints. We are no longer allowed to make up our own minds based on the FACTS. Instead, the news is a generic InfoTainment commercial for the media conglomerates. I hear reports on celebrity love triangles on broadcast news, which is not news, it is gossip, and it does not belong on the news. We have plenty of outlets for that type of information, such as E! Entertainment Television, People Magazine, the Enquirer and such rubbish.

I want to know the true facts, and I no longer go to the Television Media (or Radio either) to find it out. I want to know both sides of a story, not what these big Right Leaning media conglomerates want to pass off as NEWS. The liberal media is a myth. All the radio and TV stations are owned by corporations that are firmly entrenched in the GOP and Right-wing conservative movements.

We never hear reports on how many civilians are being killed in that war in Iraq, because that would make the administration "look bad" and undermine support in the war effort. That would be bad for the GOP. So it is not reported. Instead, we get these glitzy reports that are nothing but silly fluff. Not hard news facts.

I increasingly turn to the internet to research the facts for myself, since it seems to be the only place where I can find any type of opposing opinions and relevant information that the current corporate media conglomerates wish to suppress. It is un-American to allow such control over our media. It is increasingly like the Communist "news" that China, Cuba, and the former USSR disseminated to their public. Not news, but political propaganda designed to brainwash the public into supporting the agendas of the powerful.

We must return the networks to their glory days, when we had hard reporting on inconvenient (for rulers) facts that allowed the public to see our leaders for what they are. Not for what they WISH to be seen as.

It sickens and saddens me that this once great country of the USA is becoming a pawn of the ultra rich, and we the people are paying the price with the loss of a true democracy. We are not progressing. We are falling into the same type of thinking that the communists use. Only report what makes rulers look good. Ignore problems caused by industry that may hurt the public, and if exposed would hurt the profits of said corporations. Distract us from the truth with silly reports on Pop Idols and

movie stars.

We are being turned into a nation of zombies with the tripe being fed to us by these conglomerates. The only way to restore the balance is to reverse the previous rulings allowing these conglomerates to control all the media outlets, and allow free trade to reign, and free media to be truly FREE. I urge you to honor the values of democracy, of a country of "We the People" and stop pandering to the huge media conglomerates that want to control every bit of information we see, hear, or read.

Those are my opinions, and I totally support the following:

I am writing to express my strong disapproval of former FCC Chairman Michael Powell's efforts to bury a study that found media consolidation to be harmful to local news reporting.

The FCC can't simply hide data from the public and push through new rules that unleash further consolidation of local news outlets. Localism and diversity are the cornerstones of a democratic media system; we cannot afford to compromise them in any way.

The FCC should allow no relaxation or elimination of the public interest limits on media ownership without first weighing all of the evidence and hearing out widespread public concern about the problems of consolidation.

Limits on media consolidation have been a bulwark against the concentration of economic power in the marketplace of ideas -- a critical part of balancing the public service mission of the media with their private profit motive. Our democracy requires the free flow of local information from a broad range of diverse voices.

Media consolidation has already led to declines in local and minority ownership as well as the homogenization of content in radio and television. Allowing further concentration of local media markets, will only worsen the problems we already have.

The FCC should stand firm with the public against further concentration of media ownership in the hands of the few. A vote against media consolidation is a vote for democracy.